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Ukrainian President promises to investors to avoid hasty amendments to legislation



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is not in favor of hasty and ill-conceived retrospective amendments to legislation that worsen the condition for doing business in the country, the head of state said at a briefing in Vilnius after a meeting with Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda. "I want to confirm once again: my team and I will not take any hasty and ill-conceived steps related to retrospective changes in our legislation that would worsen the conditions for doing business in the country," Zelensky said.

"We respect any investor who already works in our country. This applies to everyone, regardless of sector and business, from a restaurant to the green energy sector," the president added.

HEADLINES



WORLD BANK IMPROVES FORECAST FOR UKRAINE'S GDP GROWTH



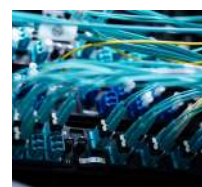
UDP RENEWABLES HAS LAUNCHED NEW PV PP "PERVOMAYSK" WITH 6.5 MW OF PEAK CAPACITY



DUTCH DEVELOPMENT BANK ACQUIRES 40% STAKE IN NORWEGIAN PROJECT IN UKRAINE



FARMAK PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY PRESENTS RESULTS OF LABORATORY STUDIES OF MEDICINES IN FOREIGN CLINICS



KHARKIV IT CLUSTER PREDICTS 25% INCREASE IN IT INDUSTRY IN REGION



UKRAINE IN 2019 CLIMBS FOUR POSITIONS IN GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY INDEX PUBLISHED BY CHINA'S HUAWEI

World Bank improves forecast for Ukraine's GDP growth



The World Bank has improved the forecast for Ukraine's GDP growth in 2019 from 3.4% to 3.6%, World Bank Senior Economist Anastasia Golovach has said. "For 2019, we do not expect any surprises and we think that Ukraine's GDP will grow by 3.6%. A good indicator, but external risks, in some way, are increasing for Ukraine, so the structural transformation of the economy is important," she said in Kyiv.

She noted that maintaining the current rate of economic growth will require an increase in capital investment, which amounted to 10% last year. This will require a greater influx of foreign direct investment.

At the same time, the bank kept forecasts of economic growth in 2020 at 3.7% of GDP, in 2021 at 4.2%, she said.

Capital investment in Ukraine in Jan-Sept grows by 12.4%

Capital investment in Ukraine in January-September 2019 grew by 12.4%, while in the first half of 2019 – by 12.3%, the State Statistics Service has reported.

According to the State Statistics Service, in January-September 2019, UAH 379 billion of capital investment was disbursed (excluding the temporarily occupied Crimea, Sevastopol and the JFO area).



In the regional context, the largest increase in capital investment January-September 2019 was recorded in Volyn (by 71.1%), Kherson (by 44.2%), Mykolaiv (by 34.7%), Poltava (by 29.3%), Kyiv (by 27.1%), and Dnipropetrovsk (in 21.8%) regions.

In the industrial context, the largest increase in capital investment in the first nine months of this year was recorded in the field of research and development – by 79%, temporary accommodation and catering – by 67.5%, water transport – by 50.6%, advertising – by 44, 2%, professional scientific and technical activities – by 43.8%.

At the same time, in the field of postal and courier activities, the drop in capital investments amounted to 81.1%, information and telecommunications – 23.4%, agriculture, forestry and fisheries – 11.3%.

The main source of financing capital investment remains the own funds of enterprises and organizations, due to which 73.4% of the total volume of all investments has been used.

European Union to continue supporting Ukraine

Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Ukraine Matti Maasikas has said that the European Union will continue supporting Ukraine on the way of reforms and European integration. Tomorrow Ukraine marks the 6th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolution of Dignity, which radically changed and reoriented the modern history of the country, he said at a meeting of the Ukrainian government. He said that the Ukrainian people have already paid and continue to pay a high price for the European choice. The country took up this challenge while it is defending its territorial integrity and sovereignty, he said. For the sake of the values and principles that we share, you can count on the indestructible support of the European Union, Maasikas said.

UDP Renewables has launched new PV PP “Pervomaysk” with 6.5 MW of peak capacity



UDP Renewables has launched a photovoltaic power plant in Pervomaysk, Mykolaiv region. “Pervomaysk” PV PP occupies an area of 12,3 hectares, with more than 19,7 thousand solar panels (330W of capacity) installed by Jinko Solar, the world's biggest manufacturer of solar panels. This amount of panels can generate almost 7600 MWh of electricity per year. This is sufficient to meet the needs of 3,250 households.



“During the first nine months of this year, the capacity of renewable energy in Ukraine has doubled. We and our partners believe that the further growth of the share of renewables in the country's energy mix is strategically important and we ensure that energy production at our stations is in line with the world's best practices,” Vasyl Khmelnytsky, founder of UFuture, said.

Operation of “Pervomaysk” PV PP will allow to reduce carbon dioxide emissions up to 11 thousand tons per year.

“Our team has made significant efforts to launch “Pervomaysk” PV PP. This project is another contribution to the implementation of the National Energy Strategy. By the end of 2019, Ukraine will reach 4% share of renewables in the total electricity production. We are grateful to our partners — KNESS group of companies, Everlegal law firm, and the financial partner, JSB “Ukrigasbank”, for the support in the implementation of the project,” Sergiy Yevtushenko, co-founder and managing partner of UDP Renewables, said.

Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania are major buyers of Ukrainian electricity

Ukraine in January-October 2019 increased electricity exports by 1.5% (by 77.1 million kWh) compared to the same period in 2018, to 5.127 billion kWh, the Ministry of Energy and Environment Protection has told the agency. Electricity supplies from the “energy island of Burshtyn TPP” to Hungary, Slovakia and Romania increased by 10.9% (by 339.2 million kWh), to 3.442 billion kWh.

Electricity supplies to Poland decreased by 2.5% (by 29.3 million kWh), to 1.132 billion kWh.

Electricity supplies to Moldova amounted to 552.7 million kWh, which is 29.6% less (232.8 million kWh) than in January-October 2018.

EBRD and Global Environment Facility will issue \$55.8 mln to support bioenergy in Ukraine

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will finance a program of support for bioenergy development worth over \$50 million, Lesya Kuzmenko, the EBRD Deputy Head in Ukraine, has said.



“The program is aimed at technologies and systems for collection, storage and processing of agrobiomass. We plan to mobilize about \$50 million for its implementation,” was said at the official opening of the program “Sustainable Bioenergy Value Chain Innovation” in Ukraine.

The leading engineer of the EBRD in Ukraine, Tetiana Markuta, clarified that the total amount of the four-year program is \$55.8 million, and it is planned to launch it from the fourth quarter of 2019. According to her, the Global Environment Facility provides grant support under the program.

Most of these funds – \$50 million – will be issued for lending to bioenergy projects in the private sector, and another \$3.5 million for incentive grants, she said. The remaining funds are to be used for information support and educational projects in the field of bioenergy.

Dutch development bank acquires 40% stake in Norwegian project in Ukraine



The Norwegian company Scatec Solar has signed an agreement with the Dutch development bank FMO to sell it 40% in a project to build a solar power station with a capacity of 55 MW in Chyhyryn (Cherkasy region), Scatec Solar has reported. “We are pleased to announce this second equity co-investment with our long-term partner FMO. We are working with FMO as a debt and equity partner on a range of projects in Ukraine and internationally and we expect more cooperation in the years to come,” Raymond Carlsen, the CEO of Scatec Solar, said.



“After our first co-investment in the Kamianka solar plant, we are pleased to partner again with Scatec Solar. This second co-investment demonstrates to us the potential of renewable energy in Ukraine,” Linda Broekhuizen, Chief Investment Officer FMO, stated.

“The total investment for the project is estimated at EUR 54 million and is funded by non-recourse debt financing from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) and Swedfund. FMO’s equity stake is financed by the Access to Energy Fund, which FMO manages on behalf of the Dutch government,” Scatec Solar said.

Boryspil International Airport ranks second in ACI Europe ranking

Boryspil International Airport in the third quarter of 2019 and September 2019 ranked second in the ACI Europe rating in terms of passenger traffic growth among the airports intended for 10-25 million passengers per year.



According to data posted on ACI Europe's website, in September (up by 27.6%) and in the third quarter (25.8% more), Boryspil airport ranked second following Milan airport (Italy) with a rise of 33.5% and 26.2% respectively.

In addition, Kharkiv International Airport was included in the top five ranking on the dynamics of passenger traffic growth among the airports for less than 5 million passengers. In September (66.3% more) it ranked second after Maribor Airport (Slovenia) with an increase of 92%, in the third quarter (up by 42.1%) following Targu Mures Airport (Romania, 113.5% more), Ohrid (Northern Macedonia, 53.8% more), and Turku (Finland, 52% more). ACI Europe monthly compiles a rating of airports by passenger traffic, analyzing data from more than 230 European airports.

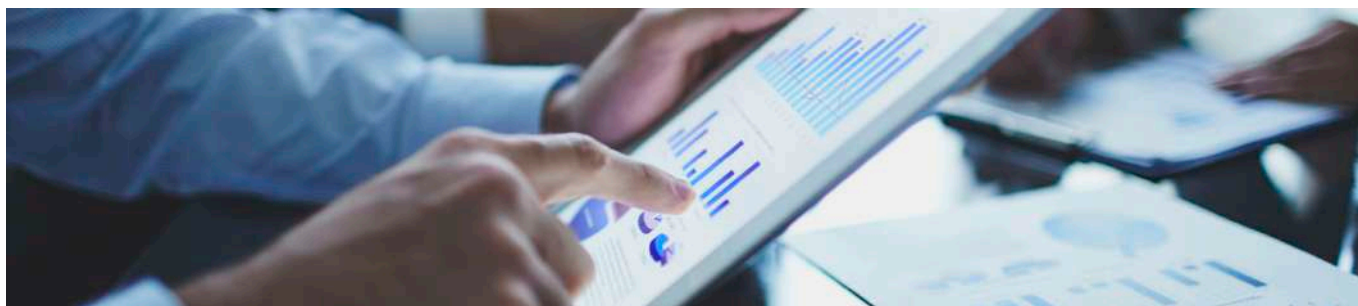
4G to be launched in Kyiv subway in Q1 2020

The start of the 4G network in Kyiv subway is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020, advisor to Kyiv Mayor Maksym Bakhmatov said. According to him, in particular, it is planned to first connect the following subway stations in the 4G network: Akademmistechko, Zhytomyrska, Sviatoshyn, Nyvky, Heroiv Dnipra, Minska, Obolon, Syrets, and Dorohozhychi and Lukianivska, and at the end of 2020 or the beginning of 2021 to connect all stations and tunnels.

According to Bakhmatov, to date, negotiations have already been held and a common implementation scheme has been approved with the key mobile operators Vodafone Ukraine, Kyivstar and lifecell.

At the same time, he said that for the implementation of the project it is still necessary that the municipal enterprise Kyiv Metropolitan signs technical conditions, and the Kyiv City Council approves tariffs for telecom access to municipal transport facilities of the city. In addition, Huawei Ukraine needs to review the subway sites, develop and coordinate a working project for 4G implementation, conduct expert reviews by the relevant government services, and Kyiv Metropolitan and operators to prepare, coordinate and sign an access agreement, then sign a common document with Huawei Ukraine about the start of work.

Transport enterprises of Ukraine increase cargo transportation by 9%



The transport enterprises of Ukraine in January-October 2019 increased cargo transportation by 8.8% compared to the same period in 2018, to 561.6 million tonnes, according to the State Statistics Service. According to its data, freight turnover of carriers for the specified period increased by 2.2%, to 282.3 billion tonne-kilometers.

According to statistical data, in January-October 2019 some 220.2 million tonnes of goods were transported by rail within the country and for export, which is 1.1% less than in January-October 2018.

Investor plans to invest EUR 2.9 bln in trade centers in Ukrainian capital

Vagif Aliyev, the founder of PrJSC Mandarin Plaza, the investor and developer of Kyiv-based Lavina shopping center, on November 20 launched the first stage of the Blokbuster Mall shopping and entertainment center in Bandery Avenue in Kyiv, investing \$400 million in construction. According to an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent, only a Silpo supermarket has started working in the facility. The rest of the stores will be launched on a fan-based basis as they are ready, the founder of Nai Ukraine, the project broker, Vitaliy Boiko, said.

According to him, the cost of investments in the construction of the Blokbuster Mall shopping center was \$400 million. The total area of the first stage is 200,000 square meters, the leased area is 110,000 square meters. After the launch of the second phase, which is at an early stage of construction, the total area will be 300,000 square meters, the rental area some 200,000 square meters. The facility is located on a plot of 30 hectares.

"Vagif Aliyev's pipeline now contains projects for EUR2.9 billion (12 projects of shopping and entertainment centers). This is the second largest indicator in the world in terms of development of retail real estate. Westfield is the first developer in the world with EUR8 billion, and the third one is one of the largest European investors with EUR2.5 billion. The uniqueness is also that all Mandarin Plaza projects are located in one city – Kyiv," Boiko said at a briefing.

Quality standards should be introduced to develop ayurveda and yoga in Ukraine



Quality standards should be introduced to develop Ayurveda and yoga in Ukraine, according to Ambassador of the Republic of India to Ukraine Partha Satpathy. Satpathy said that the standardization is need so that Ayurveda is recognized in the same way in India, Ukraine and other countries. "The government of India pays attention to the implementation of quality and standardization. Quality applies to both Ayurvedic products and services so that the effectiveness of Ayurveda is 100%. The combination of these standardization principles will allow the effective distribution of Ayurveda in the world," he said at a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine.

The ambassador said that the government of India intends to spread Ayurveda throughout the world and make it generally accepted.



"Ayurveda is a very old tradition in India. According to statistics, it is practiced by approximately 70% of families in India. Therefore, our government is focusing on spreading Ayurveda around the world to make it generally accepted," Satpathy said.

In turn, Board Chairman of the Ukrainian Association of Ayurveda-Yoga Kundan Sandwar said that by the middle of 2020, a Yoga Institute and an Ayurveda Institute would be created in Ukraine.

"Ayurveda and yoga are widespread in different countries. In Dubai, they created a yoga program in schools. There is a pilot in the U.K. There are many Ayurvedic centers in Europe. In Ukraine, there are about 30 Ayurveda and 150 yoga centers. Two institutions will be created by the middle of next year. One has already been created. This is the Ukrainian Institute of Yoga. We are waiting for accreditation, and there will be an Ayurveda Institute," he said.

Farmak pharmaceutical company presents results of laboratory studies of medicines in foreign clinics



Farmak pharmaceutical company (Kyiv) is conducting pharmaceutical studies of medicines, which were manufactured by the company, in the United States and EU member states, chief scientific consultant at JSC Farmak (Ukraine) Viktor Marhitych said at a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine. "We are conducting a series of bioequivalence studies in the EU. We have very good generics. Their conformity is confirmed by bioequivalence studies in good clinics and laboratories. This is an important area of work that Farmak is doing," he said.

According to the expert, soon a full research program will be soon completed for the Amizon preparation.

"This is so far our only original molecule, which we are developing according to the full program for original medicines. Over time, the drug research program should be fully implemented, the third phase of research should be completed, after which it will be possible to submit the drug for registration," Marhitych said.

He said that huge investments are needed for the third phase of drug research.



"The third phase is hundreds of millions of dollars. We will consider how to attract such investments. Our founder, Filia Zhebrovska, said that the drug Amizon, which is the best seller on the market, should be safe and effective. And we can confirm that the drug is safe and effective, and provide evidence, some of which are published, and another will be published," the expert said.

In turn, the experts who conducted the research on the drug, in particular, Senior Researcher, Ph.D., at Research Institute of University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (Chicago, U.S.) David Boltz; Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Director of the Global Health & Emerging Pathogens Institute at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York Adolfo Garcia-Sastre; group leader, Ph.D., University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK) Aartjan te Velhuis and Regents Distinguished Professor & KBA Eminent Scholar, Ph.D., Diagnostic Medicine Pathobiology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS Jürgen A. Richt said that cooperation with Farmak started back in the 1990s. According to them, the drug itself is tested "for effectiveness on dozens of strains of viruses, it is proved that it is a powerful antiviral agent."

Kharkiv IT Cluster predicts 25% increase in IT industry in region



Kharkiv IT Cluster predicts a 25% increase in the IT industry in the region by the end of 2019. "According to the dynamics of the last two years, in 2019 we expect growth in the industry in the region by at least 25% compared with the results of 2018," Kharkiv IT Cluster CEO Olha Shapoval said, commenting on the results of Kharkiv IT Research 2.0.

According to Kharkiv IT Research 2.0, the demand for experts in the field of information technology in 2019 also exceeds the supply: the companies' need for specialists is 1.5 times higher than the number of graduates (Kharkiv universities annually graduate more than 2,000 young specialists only in specialized fields).

Bakcell to buy Vodafone Ukraine

PJSC MTS signed a legally binding agreement with Telco Solutions and Investments LLC, being under control of Azerbaijan's Bakcell telecom company, which in turn is incorporated in NEQSOL Holding, on the sale of MTS business in Ukraine. The shareholders of the Russian company will have special dividends following the transaction.



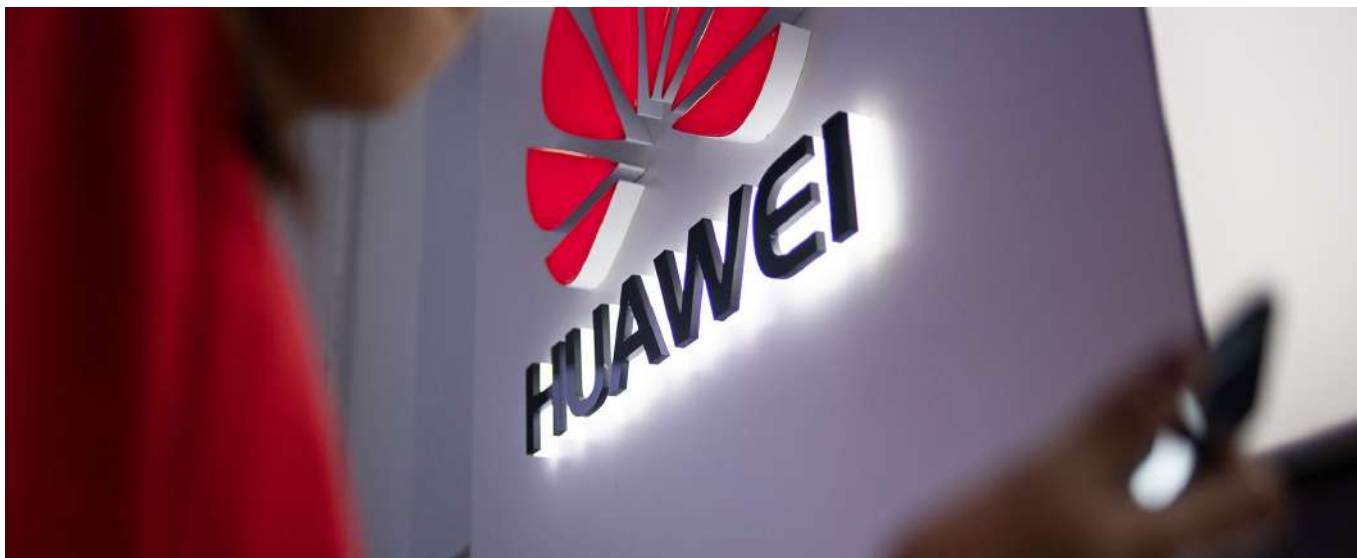
"With the acquisition of Vodafone Ukraine, the second telecommunications operator in the Ukrainian market, we continue the strategy of expanding the international presence and entering the new markets by the companies belonging to the NEQSOL Holding group," NEQSOL said in a report, citing CEO of NEQSOL Holding Yusif Jabbarov as saying.

He said that the state of the business, the growth pace and the effectiveness of Vodafone Ukraine are a reliable basis for further development, because NEQSOL holding is ready to invest in a new asset in order to continue introducing innovations and advanced technologies in Ukraine.

According to the statement of NEQSOL, under the agreement, MTS through its fully-owned subsidiary Allegretto Holding S.a.r.l. (Luxembourg) sells a 100% stake in Preludium B.V. (Netherlands), the sole shareholder of PrJSC VF Ukraine (the Vodafone Ukraine trademark), for \$734 million, including deferred payment of about \$84 million.

The purchase of a company in Ukraine is financed mainly from resources provided by international financial institutions.

Ukraine in 2019 climbs four positions in Global Connectivity Index published by China's Huawei



Ukraine in 2019 climbed four positions in the Global Connectivity Index (GCI) published by China's Huawei, the manufacturer of equipment for mobile communication. The company presented the data on November 26 at the Digital Transformation Forum in Kyiv. Over five years, the country's GCI improved by 12 points, which is an impressive achievement among 79 countries participating in the study. In addition, according to the company, from 2015 to 2019, the penetration of mobile broadband in Ukraine increased from 8% to 65%.



In addition, Huawei expressed its willingness to work closely with Ukrainian partners to develop industry ecosystems and stimulate the socio-economic development of Ukraine, as well as share international experience in the field of high-speed communications and infrastructure sharing.

In particular, over the past 20 years, Huawei has established close partnerships with major Ukrainian telecom operators and enterprises and participated in the construction of the country's information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure.

According to Huawei, Ukraine saved between three and five years on the construction of an LTE network compared to other countries.

Demand for insurance services skyrockets in Ukraine in 2019 year

The insurance companies of Ukraine in January-September 2019 received insurance premiums from individuals in the amount of UAH 15.86 billion, which is 18.4%, or UAH 2.47 billion, more than in the same period in 2018, Oleksandr Zaletov, a member of the National Commission for the State Regulation of the Financial Services Market, has told Interfax-Ukraine.

In the nine months of 2019, the top ten most popular insurance services among the population of Ukraine included the following: life insurance with UAH 3.183 billion, vehicle insurance with UAH 3.080 billion, compulsory insurance of motor vehicle owners' liability to third party with UAH 3.119 billion, medical insurance with UAH 1.207 billion, travel insurance with UAH 1.187 billion, Green Card insurance with UAH 1.039 billion, accident insurance with UAH 1.034 billion, property insurance with UAH 843.3 million, health insurance with UAH 419.9 million, and financial risk insurance with UAH 326.1 million.

Karlivka Machine Building Plant from Ukraine for first time will deliver equipment to EU

KMZ Industries (Karlivka Machine Building Plant, Poltava region) has won a tender for the supply of elevator equipment for a farm in Romania, which will be the first integrated supply of enterprise to the country of the European Union. According to information on KMZ Industries' website, the production of elevator equipment (silos, transport and cleaning equipment) has already begun as part of the order, which will be delivered to the customer for installation in 2.5 months.

The press service of the company told Interfax-Ukraine that, in addition to local firms, large international companies such as AGI, Simaga and others, participated in the tender. In addition, this will be the first supply of Ukrainian elevator equipment to the EU.

2/3 Ukrainians against sale of land



As many as 29% of Ukrainians support the passage of a bill on the land market by the Verkhovna Rada in the first reading, while 64% disapprove of this, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) found after conducting a public opinion poll.

The poll showed that 11.4% of respondents fully support the Rada's passage on November 13 of legislation allowing the sale of land and another 17.3% are inclined to support it, while 15.4% are inclined to disapprove of this decision, 50% are completely opposed, and 5.9% were undecided or refused to answer.

If a referendum on the sale of agricultural land was held in Ukraine next Sunday, 22% of Ukrainians would support it, 59% would vote against, 14% would not cast their ballots, and 5% said they were still undecided.

The KIIS polled 1,500 respondents aged 18 and older using computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI) on November 22-25.

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Germany's DEG approves \$20 mln financing to Astarta



Germany's Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG) has approved \$20 million financing to Astarta agricultural holding.

"The project will help the company to secure long-term working capital financing and capital expenditure program," the company said in a report on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE).

According to a posting on DEG's website, the financing is long-term one, but no other details are presented.



The German corporation said that some funds will be sent to buy newest equipment and modernization of production technology to cut natural resource consumption.

DEG is a subsidiary of Germany's KfW development bank.

Astarta is a vertically integrated agribusiness holding operating in eight regions of Ukraine. The holding includes eight sugar factories, agricultural enterprises with a land bank of 243,000 hectares and dairy farms, a biogas plant and a soybean processing complex in Poltava region.

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